Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
           Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE: November 30, 2001

RE: Trouble with the Law for Sixteen State Project

The attached table and graphs summarize the data on incarceration rates for adult recipients of mental health services that were recently submitted to the Sixteen State Project for that project's measure of trouble with the law. We hope to have comparable measures of criminal justice involvement for other states early next year.
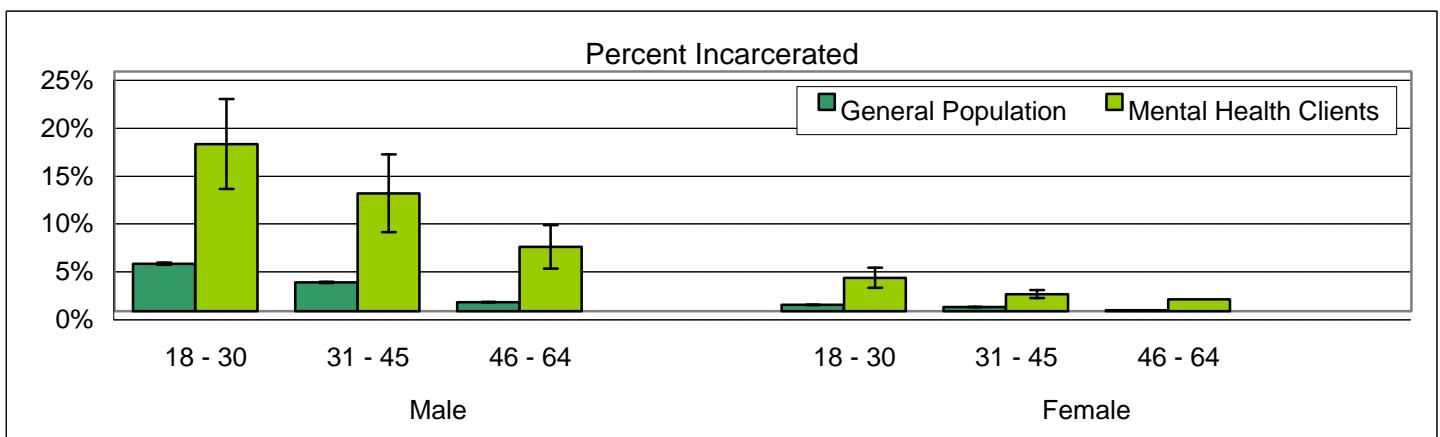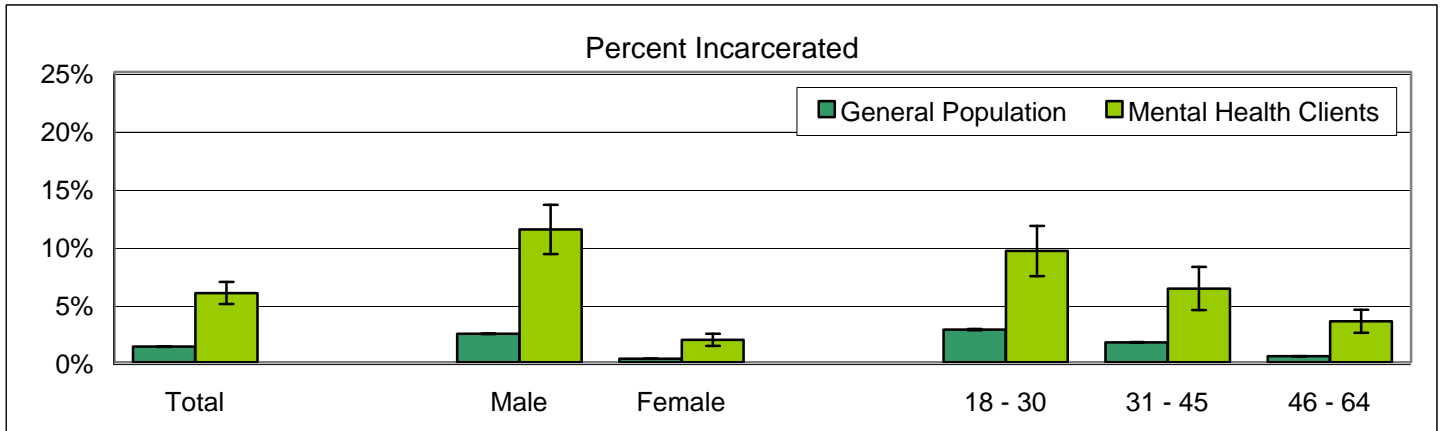
This comparison of incarceration rates for adult clients of community mental health services in Vermont during FY2000 is based on a comparison of anonymous database extracts provided by the Vermont Department of Corrections and Vermont's Community Mental Health Centers. Because these data sets do not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to measure the amount of caseload overlap between the two service sectors.

As you will see, the levels of criminal justice involvement and the differences in relative risk among age and gender groups are similar to those we have found in earlier analyses. Overall, about 6% of all adult mental health service recipients were incarcerated in a state or local facility during FY2000. Male service recipients had a substantially higher incarceration rate than women (11% vs. 2%). When clients' rates of incarceration are compared to the rates for the general population, however, women had a greater elevated risk of incarceration than men. Men who received mental health services were 4.7 times as likely as other men to be incarcerated, but women who received mental health services were 6.3 times as likely as other women to be incarcerated.

Young men in the 18-30 age group had the highest incarceration rate (17%) among service recipients, but women in the 46-64 age group had the highest elevated risk; they were 13.7 times as likely to be incarcerated as women in the same age group in the general population. For those of you who are interested, we have discussed possible interpretations of this pattern in a paper that appeared in Justice Research and Policy (Vol. 2, No.2, Fall 2000). If you would like a copy of the paper, let us know.

We look forward to your comments and questions to jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

Vermont
Adults Receiving Community Mental Health Services During FY 2000
Incarcerated During FY 2000

Percent Incarcerated — General Population, Mental Health Clients (Total, Male, Female, 18 - 30, 31 - 45, 46 - 64)

Percent Incarcerated — General Population, Mental Health Clients (Male 18-30, 31-45, 46-64; Female 18-30, 31-45, 46-64)

	General Population			Mental Health Clients			Relative Risk
		Incarcerated			Incarcerated		
	Number	Number	Percent	Total Served	Number	Percent	
Total	454,395	6,115 ± 77	1.3% ± 0.02%	12,343 ± 97	736 ± 117	6% ± 0.9%	4.4 ± 0.7
Male	220,561	5,402 ± 76	2.4% ± 0.03%	5,232 ± 59	599 ± 111	11% ± 2.1%	4.7 ± 0.9
Female	233,834	713 ± 10	0.3% ± 0.00%	7,112 ± 78	137 ± 37	2% ± 0.5%	6.3 ± 1.7
18 - 30	101,336	2,844 ± 59	2.8% ± 0.06%	3,545 ± 58	340 ± 76	10% ± 2.2%	3.4 ± 0.8
31 - 45	149,519	2,557 ± 47	1.7% ± 0.03%	4,468 ± 65	284 ± 83	6% ± 1.9%	3.7 ± 1.1
46 - 64	130,624	673 ± 13	0.5% ± 0.01%	3,089 ± 42	109 ± 31	4% ± 1.0%	6.9 ± 1.9
Male							
18 - 30	50,673	2,511 ± 59	5.0% ± 0.12%	1,549 ± 36	270 ± 72	17% ± 4.7%	3.5 ± 0.9
31 - 45	74,683	2,240 ± 46	3.0% ± 0.06%	1,943 ± 39	239 ± 79	12% ± 4.1%	4.1 ± 1.4
46 - 64	64,831	614 ± 13	0.9% ± 0.02%	1,301 ± 25	87 ± 30	7% ± 2.3%	7.1 ± 2.4
Female							
18 - 30	50,663	333 ± 7	0.7% ± 0.01%	1,996 ± 46	70 ± 25	3% ± 1.2%	5.3 ± 1.9
31 - 45	74,836	317 ± 6	0.4% ± 0.01%	2,524 ± 52	45 ± 27	2% ± 1.1%	4.2 ± 2.5
46 - 64	65,793	59 ± 2	0.1% ± 0.00%	1,788 ± 34	22 ± 7	1% ± 0.4%	13.7 ± 4.7

Based on analysis of Monthly Service Reports submitted to DDMHS by designated community mental health service providers and Department of Corrections Facilities Database.

Because these databases do not share unique client identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to provide unduplicated counts of people shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).